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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
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Time: 3:00 p.m.

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### **WEST BEHM CANAL HERRING PURSE SEINE SAC ROE FISHERY UPDATE FOR THE 2012 SEASON**

Juneau. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the 2012 sac roe herring fishery in West Behm Canal;

The Sections 1-E and 1-F sac roe herring management plan (5 AAC 27.197) directs the department to determine the equal share quota (ESQ) by dividing the guideline harvest level (GHL) by the maximum number of CFEC permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. There are currently 48 Southeast Alaska sac roe seine permit holders. Initially, the department announced an ESQ of 15.8 tons per permit on December 21, 2011 which will not allow a manageable fishery due to the small allowable size.

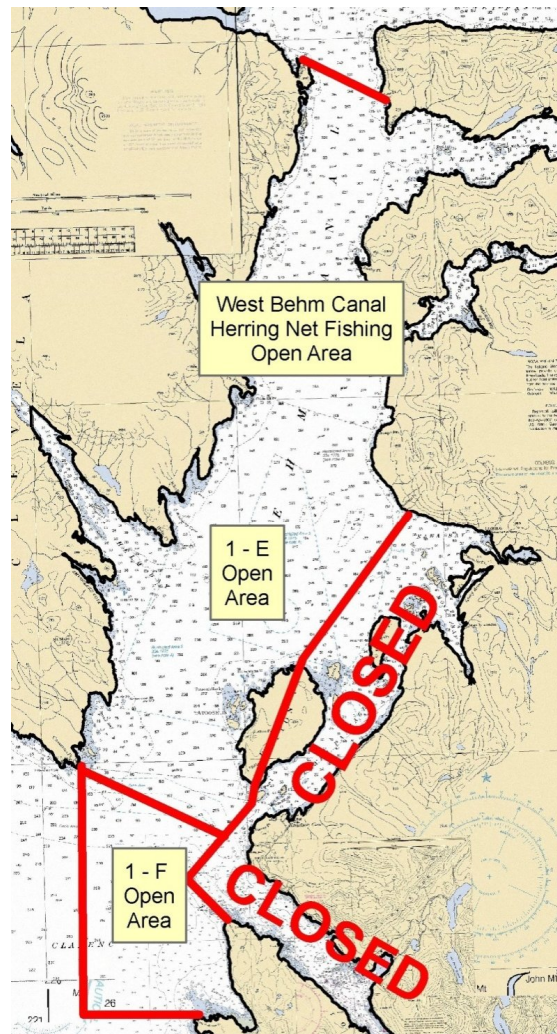
After consultation with the Alaska Department of Law, the Department of Fish and Game has determined that only those permits held by purse seine fishermen present in West Behm Canal when the fishery is opened will be eligible to participate in the fishery. Fishermen who are interested in participating in the West Behm Canal purse seine fishery must register with the department when they arrive on the grounds to be eligible to obtain an ESQ and participate in the fishery.

The department will announce a 12-hour notice that the West Behm Canal fishery may be placed on 2-hour notice. The time of 2-hour notice will be the last opportunity for permit holders to register with the department. The ESQ will be determined by the 748 ton GHL divided by the number of eligible purse seine fishermen that have registered with the department at the time of the issuance of the 2-hour notice. The ESQ for the fishery will then be announced by VHF radio to the fleet at least one hour before the fishery starts.

According to 5 AAC 27.197 (b) the department is authorized to impose other conditions that are necessary for an orderly and manageable fishery. These additional conditions for this fishery are as follows:

- Fishermen may register with the department by contacting ADF&G biologists on the grounds by VHF radio or calling the Ketchikan ADF&G office. Ketchikan biologists will be monitoring VHF radio channel 10 and 16 from a vessel when on the grounds.
- Fishermen that have not registered by the time of the 2-hour notice may not participate in the 2012 West Behm Canal sac roe herring fishery.

- The ESQ from any permit holder that registered with the department but does not participate in the fishery will be left un-harvested.
- Fishermen will be required to contact the department on VHF channel 10 or 16 immediately after each set is made with the time, location and estimated amount of herring. A follow up call must be made once fish are onboard the vessel or tender.
- Any amount of herring overages above the ESQ must be landed and reported on an ADF&G fish ticket and all proceeds from the sale of amounts in excess of the ESQ shall be surrendered to the State of Alaska.



**Figure 1. Commercial closed waters for West Behm Canal sac roe herring fishery.**

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220